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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In regard to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, article 43, paragraph 10, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex, of 20 November 1989) provides, inter alia, that "the duration of the meetings of the Committee shall be determined, and reviewed, if necessary, by a meeting of the States parties to the present Convention, subject to the approval of the General Assembly".

2. After reviewing its prospective workload, taking into account the unexpectedly large number of ratifications to the Convention received within a short space of time and the fact that, as of the end of 1992, initial reports will be due from 57 States parties, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its first session, requested the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to schedule at least two regular sessions of the Committee annually as far from 1993 (see A/47/41, sect. I, recommendation 1).

3. The Committee also requested the General Assembly to authorize the establishment of a pre-sessional Working Group of one week duration that would meet approximately two months in advance of each session to conduct a preliminary review of reports submitted under article 44 of the Convention and to consider questions relating to technical assistance and international cooperation pursuant to article 45 of the Convention (ibid.).

4. In its resolution 46/112 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly supported the organization of the future work of the Committee on the basis of two sessions per year, each of two or three weeks' duration, as well as the

establishment of a pre-sessional working group. Additionally, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to convene a brief meeting of States parties to the Convention, preferably during the forty-seventh session of the Assembly, to determine the duration of the Committee's future meetings.

5. The States parties to the Convention met at United Nations Headquarters on 11 November 1992 and unanimously approved the recommendation of the Committee concerning the duration of its future meetings. The text of the resolution adopted by the States parties is annexed to the present note.

ANNEX

Determination of the duration of the future meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

The States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/112 of 17 December 1991,

Taking note of the invitation of the General Assembly to convene a brief meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to determine the duration of the future meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/75 and the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its first session, a/

Noting that the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to take appropriate action at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of the Committee,

Conscious of the rapid entry into force of the Convention and the unprecedented number of ratifications, which demonstrate a widespread commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and that the initial report of one hundred and twenty States parties will need to be considered by the Committee in a timely and thorough manner between 1992 and 1996, at which time the second periodic reports will start to be due,

Encouraged by the support for the work of the Committee and the understanding for the increasing workload shown in General Assembly resolution 46/112 and in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/75,

Convinced of the need to adopt urgent measures to enable the Committee to deal in a thorough and timely manner with reports submitted by States parties,

1. Strongly support the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the organization of the future work of the Committee on the basis of two regular sessions annually as from 1993, each of two or three weeks' duration, and the establishment of a pre-sessional working group that would meet approximately two months in advance of each session for a preliminary review of reports from States parties;

2. Recommend that the General Assembly take action for the implementation of the proposed revision of the duration of the sessions of the Committee;

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a/ A/47/41.

3. Request the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, to authorize the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities, within the overall existing budget framework, for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.